

OTR 79-3702

13 52 ; 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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FROM:

Harry E. Fitzwater Director of Training

SUBJECT:

Request for Oral and Written Response to the National Needs in the Area of Foreign

Language and Area Specialists

REFERENCE:

Memo to DTR from A/LC, dated 2 Feb 79,

Same Subject

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- 1. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is not able to assess programs within the Department of Defense for training personnel in foreign languages and international studies. The Agency, however, currently uses foreign language instructional materials produced by the Defense Language Institute (DLI), as well as materials produced by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), universities and many publishing companies. Our instructors have found the DLI materials to be very good in content and format.
- 2. The Office of Training Language School (LS) has regular contact on the working level with other language schools in the federal government, including DLI. The Language School, along with FSI, DLI, the National Security Agency (NSA), and other federal agencies involved in foreign language teaching, is a member of the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR). In the recent past LS, FSI and DLI participated in an important interagency research project to determine the reliability of the oral interview to assess language proficiency in French and Spanish. Inasmuch as this cooperative research proved to be extremely useful, the ILR Testing Subcommittee has followed up with research on intertester reliability in Russian.

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3. Pursuant to the conversation between you and the Language School staff, there is attached a copy of the responses to questions concerning language capability and training originated by the Presidential Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies. Please contact Deputy Chief of the Language School, for any further information.

Harry E. Fitzwater

Attachment

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Distribution:

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